

The Impact of Trauma

Trauma is a common experience in communities across the country.

It can result from direct or indirect victimization, a single incident, or multiple events in one's life.

Traumatic events can include:

- Sexual, physical, or emotional abuse
- Serious accidents, illness, or medical procedures
- Domestic violence
- Community violence
- Natural or manmade disasters
- War, terrorism, or political violence

These physically or emotionally harmful experiences affect a person's ability to function as well as their physical, social, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing.

The effects of trauma can be seen on a daily basis in the criminal justice system, impacting recovery and access to services for countless people.

What does trauma look like here?



In 2015, there were 145 homicides in the city of Milwaukee. At 24.3 per 100,000, the homicide rate was higher than state and national rates.

Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission Annual Report, 2015

Non-fatal shootings increased by 9% between 2014 and 2015, with a total of 633 non-fatal shootings in the city of Milwaukee in 2015.

Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission Annual Report, 2015



4,697 children were victims of maltreatment in Wisconsin in 2015.

24 children died from maltreatment; 9 were from Milwaukee County.

Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for CY2015

35% of high school students and 45% of middle school students agree or strongly agree that harassment and bullying is a problem at their school.

Milwaukee Public Schools Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Spring 2010



94 documented suicides in Milwaukee County

Wisconsin Public Health Profiles, 2010, Milwaukee County

437 rape cases in the city of Milwaukee

Milwaukee Police Department Annual Report, 2015



The Milwaukee Police Department received 8,779 calls for domestic abuse and investigated 5,891 domestic abuse crimes in 2015.

Sojourner Family Peace Center, Wisconsin's largest domestic violence agency, served 9,571 clients and fielded 18,581 hotline calls in 2015.